NEWS ANALYSIS 1-0028 JANUARY 23, 1976
FRED GALVAN

KISSINGER EVALUATES MOSCOW TRIP

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN DISCUSSES SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S OWN ASSESSMENT OF HIS JUST-CONCLUDED MISSION TO MOSCOW.

VOICE: TO PUT THAT ASSESSMENT IN BRIEF TERMS BASED ON DOCTOR KISSINGER'S WORDS AT A BRUSSELS NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY), HIS MISSION TO MOSCOW MADE SOLID PROGRESS ON A KEY ASPECT OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS--STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. BUT THERE WAS NO MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH. MORE WORK, HE INDICATED, IS REQUIRED BY BOTH SIDES BEFORE THE OUTLINES OF A SECOND S.A.L.T. AGREEMENT CAN BE COMPLETED.

BUT ON ANOTHER ISSUE--SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT, DOCTOR KISSINGER WAS UNABLE TO REPORT ANY HEADWAY. AND HE SAID AGAIN THAT IT IS THE AMERICAN VIEW THAT LACK OF SOVIET RESTRAINT IN ANGOLA CAN ONLY BE HARMFUL TO THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF DETENTE.

SUMMING UP THE STATE OF DETENTE, THE SECRETARY SAID, "I WOULD HAVE TO CALL ATTENTION TO BOTH PLUSES AND MINUSES." DOCTOR KISSINGER SAID HE AND HIS PARTY LEFT MOSCOW CONVINCED OF ONE FACT. THAT IS, TO USE HIS WORDS-- THAT "SOVIET LEADERS ARE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING, AND STRENGTHENING THE DETENTE RELATIONSHIP. WE BELIEVE," HE ADDED, "THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO S.A.L.T. MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THAT END."

OF COURSE, WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT THE STAGNATION THAT SOME MONTHS AGO SEEMED TO HAVE SET IN ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION HAS ENDED. DOCTOR KISSINGER AND OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE RESPONDED TO AMERICAN PROPOSALS WITH SOME OF THEIR OWN. THESE SOVIET SUGGESTIONS TO THE

AMERICANS WILL BE STUDIED CLOSELY BY PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. FOLLOWING THAT STUDY BY WASHINGTON ITS REACTIONS TO THE LATEST SOVIET PROPOSALS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS BY BOTH SIDES.

AND, IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN THESE FURTHER TALKS, THEN THE COMBINED PACKAGE OF AGREED ITEMS WILL GO FORWARD TO THEIR TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN GENEVA. DESPITE WHAT APPEARS LIKE A LENGTHY PROCESS THAT CONCEIVABLY COULD TAKE MONTHS, DOCTOR KISSINGER ONCE MORE IN BRUSSELS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY BREZHNEV COULD MEET HERE IN WASHINGTON BEFORE YEAR'S END TO SIGN THE FINAL PRODUCT OF THE INTENSIVE SECOND-STAGE S.A.L.T. NEGOTIATIONS.

SO, WHILE NO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE KISSINGER MISSION, THERE IS CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION THAT A WORKABLE PLAN TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS BY BOTH SIDES IS MOVING AHEAD. IN VIEWING WHAT DOCNOR KISSINGER CALLED THE "PLUSSES" OF HIS MISSION, THAT TO SAY THE LEAST IS A MAJOR ONE.

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